

**REQUEST FOR
CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)
TRANSMITTAL**

Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. § 132, effective on May 29, 2000 provides for continued examination of a utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995.

See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA)

OCT 06 2003

Application Number: 09/955,178

Filing Date: September 19, 2001

First Named Inventor: Kenichi AOYAGI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1774

Examiner: C. S. Thompson

Attorney Docket Number: 07481.0018

Attorney Customer Number: 22,852

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d) instead of a RCE to be eligible for patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See "Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice," Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14865 (March 20, 2000). Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (April 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114: Note: If the RCE is proper, any previously filed unentered amendments and amendments enclosed with the RCE will be entered in the order in which they were filed unless applicant instructs otherwise. If applicant does not wish to have any previously filed unentered amendment(s) entered, application must request non-entry of such amendment.

a. Previously submitted. If a final Office action is outstanding, any amendments filed after the final Office action may be considered as a submission even if this box is not checked.

i. Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief of Reply Brief previously filed on [Date].
ii. Other _____

b. Enclosed:

i. <input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply	iii. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement
ii. <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)	iv. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

2. Miscellaneous

a. Suspension of action on the above-mentioned application is requested under 37 C.F.R. § 1.103(c) for a period of [number] months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) required.)
b. Other _____

3. Fees

a. The filing fee is calculated as follows:

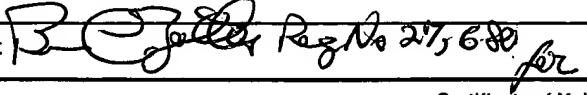
- i. \$770.00 RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(e)
- ii. Petition for extension of time for ([number] Months) \$[Fee]
- iii. Other _____

b. Check in the amount of \$770.00 enclosed.

c. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in the filing fees, or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Signature of Applicant, Attorney, or Agent Required

Name: James W. Edmondson	Reg. No.: 33,871
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Signature: 	Date: October 6, 2003
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, MAIL STOP RCE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on: [Date]

Name: [Text]

Signature:	Date:
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